Subsequently, in order to mitigate the hardship of the farmers in the drought affected States, it has been decided to waive completely the first year's deferred liability of interest on Kharif loans as a one-time measure. Commercial banks have been advised to defer the interest due in the year 2002-03 on Kharif loans in such a way that deferred instalments of interest payment would be 20% of the deferred interest. This instalment of deferred insterest would be reimbursed by Government and would be applicable in the case of all farmers. The balance amount of the deferred interest may be recovered in reasonable instalments thereafter. It has also been reiterated that no interest should be charged on the deferred interest. Further, banks were advised that there will be a cap of 20% of the total deferred liabilities of interest on the amount to be waived for the first year.

(c) The above relief measures cover only short term loans.

(d) No, sir.

(e) to (g) Do not arise in view of (d) above.

Smuggling of drugs

721. SHRIVIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that expensive use of camouflage by smugglers in the shape of cavities in wooden artifacts, hollow opening in wheelchairs, private parts of the body, plasters legs etc. is helping them to avoid detection at Airport customs, etc. thus contributing towards large-scale smuggling of drugs;

(b) if so, whether custom mechanism both men and gadgets are being adequately equipped to detect such cases; and

(c) how many such cases have been detected in major International Airports like Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, etc/during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, resources in term of manpower and technological aid such as X-Ray baggage machines and IONSCAN machines for detection of drugs etc. are adequate.

(c) 13 cases have been detected in major international airports during last six months.